

The Board of Public Education has adopted the following rule regarding assignment of persons providing instruction to Braille students. A copy of the notice of adoption, as well as the notice of proposed rulemaking can be found on the OPI Web site at [www.opi.mt.gov](http://www.opi.mt.gov). Under Programs and Services, scroll down to Legal and click on Legal Division.

**10.55.717 ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONS PROVIDING INSTRUCTION TO BRAILLE**

**STUDENTS** (1) No certified or classified employee of a school district, cooperative, or any contracted service provider shall be assigned to provide instruction of Braille to a student or produce Braille materials who has not demonstrated competency in "contracted" (grade two) standard literary Braille code by:

- (a) successful completion of the National Literary Braille Competency Test; or
- (b) successful completion of the Braille competency test developed by Portland State University (Braille Literacy Usage Exam); or
- (c) successful completion of Library of Congress transcriber's certificate; or
- (d) successful completion of a program, for teaching visually impaired students, from an accredited college or university.

(2) The employing agency (school district and/or cooperative) is responsible for monitoring appropriate assignment of personnel under (1).

(3) Any person under (1) shall have two years, from the date that the individual has been initially assigned to provide instruction in Braille or to produce Braille materials, to successfully pass the testing requirements.

(4) A person who has met the requirements of (1) shall maintain their facility with "contracted" (grade two) standard literary Braille code through continuing education opportunities.

(5) For the purposes of (4), an approved provider of continuing education may include any entity approved by the Montana Office of Public Instruction and/or the Montana Board of Education.

(6) Individuals who seek to remain eligible to work with visually impaired students are responsible for documenting completion of continuing education. Such individuals will provide a copy of their documentation to their employing school district.

(7) If a paraprofessional, who has not successfully met the requirements found in (1), is assigned to work with a student who has a visual impairment, the paraprofessional will be supervised by the district's special education teacher in collaboration with a teacher of the visually impaired who holds a credential from an accredited university. In addition, the assigned paraprofessional and the school district shall meet the requirements contained in (1) within two years of the date a student with a visual impairment has been identified as in need of Braille instruction and/or materials.

AUTH: 20-2-114, MCA

IMP: 20-1-121, 20-7-475, MCA